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ment of the district, a fact which makes the book of value to the student of the history of Minneapolis. It is attractively bound, printed on good paper, and is illustrated with numerous pictures of such early settlers as Joseph Johnson, Oliver Gray, and C. M. Loring. It certainly is "Most Diverting to the Reader."

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK JR.

John P. Williamson, a Brother to the Sioux. By WINIFRED W. BARTON. (New York, etc., Fleming H. Revell Company, 1919. 269 p. Illustrated)

The author of this book set out to write a popular biography of an heroic figure in the home missionary field, and she has succeeded fairly well. The Reverend John P. Williamson was one of a number of devoted men who undertook to carry Christianity to the Sioux beyond the frontier. His father, Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, the Pond brothers, and Stephen R. Riggs labored at the task for years. Results were slow in appearing, however, and it was not until after the Sioux outbreak of 1862 that their efforts began to bear much fruit. John P. Williamson and his friend, Alfred L. Riggs, grew to manhood among the Sioux of Minnesota and were well fitted to continue the work of the Dakota mission. The first three chapters of the book deal with Williamson's early life at the mission stations, his struggle for an education, and the beginning of his ministry. After his ordination he himself became a missionary at Redwood, near the Lower Sioux Agency, and at the request of the Indian agent interpreted the rash statement of the trader Myrick at a council shortly before the outbreak of August, 1862. It is to be regretted that the author has not indicated the source of her information about this important council. The remainder of the book is devoted to an account of the religious and educational work which Williamson carried on at various Indian reservations in the Dakotas. The biography gives an interesting view of the progress of the Indians from barbarism to civilization under the guidance of the missionaries.

The author has quoted extensively from Stephen R. Riggs's *Mary and I*, and from other books, but failure to give page refer-

ences makes it difficult to check up the statements. Selections from numerous letters have also been used, but without indication as to where the originals are to be found. Many sketches by John Redowl and a number of photographs add to the attractiveness of the book, although the choice of subjects for the drawings is not particularly good. Despite the fact that it is popular and superficial rather than scholarly, this biography will be of value to students of the history of the Northwest.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK JR.

Our Debt to the Red Man; the French-Indians in the Development of the United States. By LOUISE SEYMOUR HOUGHTON. (Boston, Stratford Company, 1918. XI, 210 p. Illustrated)

If any group is more misjudged than the American Indian it is the French-Indian metis. Mrs. Houghton has attempted to clear up some of the misconceptions in regard to these people and has dealt with their contributions and not those of the full-blood Red Man as the main title suggests. The services of these men to the United States, including Minnesota, are varied. As a whole they have been intensely loyal to the government; they have served ably as interpreters, mediators, traders, explorers, colonizers, and missionaries, and have made valuable contributions to the literature and art of the country. Whether descendants of Choctaw, Sioux, or Cherokee, they have found their way into almost every field of industry and are to-day serving as chiefs of police, physicians, teachers, clerks, and stenographers. It has been aptly said that "the educated Indian would rather work with his brain than his hands . . . if this be true of the full-blood Indian, it is much more true of the metis."

Mrs. Houghton has gathered a wide variety of material but she has not used it with discrimination. The text contains endless details, which might better have been relegated to footnotes, and the inclusion of references in the body adds to the confusion of the reader. Nevertheless, despite its crudities of form and a number of grammatical and typographical errors, the book is distinctly worth while. It suggests numerous opportunities for in-